

## Abu Nidal claims cross-border raid

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said Israeli troops killed three of its fighters attacking military targets in Israel Wednesday. The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said in a statement in Beirut the fighters died in a clash with Israeli troops near the northern Israeli settlement of Kibbutz Dan. "Our heroes succeeded in destroying an military vehicle and killing or wounding several enemy soldiers. Three of our heroes were killed," the statement said. It named the three as Ramzi Zelzer, Khaled Ajil and Izzat Fazal. In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army said three commandos were shot dead by an army patrol inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The pre-dawn clash occurred just north of a collective settlement after soldiers in a routine patrol spotted the commandos and opened fire, the army announcement said. It was the second attempted infiltration in nine days at the same location and the 10th across Israel's borders since November.

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## Crown Prince meets students

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the Royal Court Wednesday evening with a group of promising students from the University of Jordan to discuss political, economic and educational issues of concern to Jordan. The Crown Prince briefed the students on current events in the Middle East and Jordan's stand, and tackled the Kingdom's economic and administrative problems. In reference to educational development, Prince Hassan said that the First National Conference on Education held last year aimed to overhaul the country's educational system. He said the next phase will involve the reexamination of higher education, with a view to adapting it to the needs of the local and Arab labour markets.

## Khayyat, Khleifat meet Omani minister

MUSCAT (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Youth Minister Awad Khleifat met here Wednesday with Omani Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Hejal Ibn Saad. Ibn Hareb and discussed with him bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

## Zawaideh returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh returned to Amman Wednesday evening after attending the 11th meeting of the U.N. Committee on Human Settlements in New Delhi. The committee endorsed a resolution calling for reconstruction of Arab homes demolished by the Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza, Zawaideh said. He did not give details.

## Jordan urges action to end Gulf war

GUATEMALA (Petra) — The head of Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting here has urged parliaments of all countries to exert efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. Rizik Al Bataineh, member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that the conflict had caused the death of hundreds of thousands of people and millions of dollars in material losses. Bataineh said that the Arab-Israeli conflict "represents one of the major world crises and is being aggravated by Israel's atrocities and killing of innocent people trying to resist occupation."

## N. Yemen urges support for uprising

SANAA (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called for an emergency Arab summit meeting to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, Radio Sanaa said Wednesday. Following talks in Sanaa with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Saleh said the summit should study ways of providing Arab support for the Palestinians. The radio said that, in addition to the situation in the occupied territories, Saleh and Arafat discussed the "dangerous escalation in the Gulf war."

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

## Iraq receives Egyptian aircraft

CAIRO (R) — Egypt completed an Iraqi order for 80 Tucano training aircraft Wednesday and officials said talks were going on with other Arab states interested in buying the plane. Egyptian pilots flew the last three of the turboprop two-seater planes to Iraq after a ceremony attended by the Iraqi Air Force Chief of Staff Major-General Salim Sultan. Yousef Mustafa, general manager of the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), said Egypt was willing to meet Arab demands for military hardware. Egypt also produces and assembles the French-designed Alpha jet advanced training and ground support aircraft as well as helicopters, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles, armoured vehicles, artillery and a wide range of ammunition. "We are proud to have in Egypt such military industries carried out by Arab hands," Sultan said. AOI has also delivered the first two of 40 Tucanos ordered by Egypt's own air force. Mustafa said the Egyptian order would be completed by the end of the year. Officials said negotiations were under way with several Arab states, which they declined to name, to buy the Brazilian-designed aircraft, capable of carrying light weapons.

## Israel uses nerve gas against Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 70-year-old Palestinian woman died Wednesday after inhaling tear-gas in a clash with Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip, and a United Nations doctor said Israeli soldiers were using highly toxic gases against Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories.

The woman's death raised the death toll to at least 144 Palestinians and two Israelis in the four-month-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Shifa Hospital in Gaza said the woman was overcome by tear-gas fired by troops at Jabalya refugee camp. She was the second Palestinian in two days to die after inhaling tear-gas.

The army said a 21-year-old boy was overcome by tear-gas at Shati camp in the Gaza Strip Tuesday during a protest against

the expulsion Monday of eight Palestinians to Lebanon for anti-occupation activity.

In Vienna, the director of health of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Israel had used highly toxic gases against protesters in Gaza, causing at least two deaths and several miscarriages.

John Hiddlestone, a former New Zealand director of health and senior official in the World Health Organisation (WHO), said Israeli troops were using the

(Continued on page 4)

## Hijack negotiations reportedly in 'delicate phase' on Algiers tarmac

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Hijackers holding 32 hostages on a Kuwaiti Airways Boeing 747 under the scoring Algiers sun Wednesday demanded talks, showing their first signs of impatience.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian officials Wednesday condemned the hijack of Kuwaiti airliner and expressed support for Kuwait in its rejection of blackmail and said that news of the hijack had redirected world attention from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Masri doubted whether the Arab image in the world would be affected adversely by the hijack. "It does not effect the Arab image in the world for two reasons; these people (hijackers) might not be Arabs and it is clear that they are backed by the Iranian regime."

But Masri added: "This action diverts the world attention from the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, and from the brutal and oppressive measures of the Israeli occupying authorities..."

Minister of occupied territories affairs, Marwan Daudin told the same reporter that "any incident which could steal the media light will adversely affect the uprising." Daudin said that the hijack-

ence since landing at the airport there earlier in the day.

An Algerian official boarded the plane, where the eight hijackers and their remaining captives were sweltering through the ninth

day of the hijacking, and Algerian state radio said talks to end the drama were in a "delicate phase."

The man, identified by Algiers radio as a member of the Algerian negotiating team, went aboard the plane for 25 minutes after the hijackers, who killed two Kuwaiti hostages in Cyprus, told the control tower: "We want a dialogue."

Reports from Kuwait said the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, spoke to by telephone to the leaders of Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon and Jordan "as part of efforts Kuwait is making on the highest levels to end the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and save the innocent passengers."

A delegation of Kuwaiti officials arrived in Algiers Wednesday afternoon to help in the effort to free the plane, hijacked April 5 on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait with 112 people aboard.

The gunmen are demanding that Kuwait free 17 pro-Iranian extremists convicted in the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait.

Arab leaders have united in condemning the hijacking.

"This terrorist act has distorted the image of the Arabs in the world at large... it is aimed at dealing a blow to the Palestinian uprising," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said.

(Continued on page 4)

## Iraq says Iranians mauled in Kurdistan; no let-up seen in raging missile attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it fired three missiles into Tehran and its troops beat back an Iranian offensive in the strategic Kurdish province, wiping out four Iranian brigades in 60 hours of fighting.

Teheran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iraqi troops launched a series of counterattacks Tuesday night, seeking to recapture territory they lost in the area. Iran also reported firing two missiles at an Iraqi town.

It said 3,500 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in the offensive launched Monday across the mountainous border, south of the town of Penjwin. Iraq has said over 6,000 Iranians were killed in the battle.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said two long-range missiles were fired simultaneously into Tehran at 12:20 p.m. (0820 GMT). A third was fired at 2:30 p.m. (1030 GMT).

IRNA said four people were killed and several wounded in the first barrage.

Iraq has fired 123 projectiles into Tehran since the latest round of the so-called "war of the cities" flared Feb. 29.

Iranian gunners lobbed two such missiles into Tehran and another two into Tabriz, in northwest Iran, Tuesday.

Iran launched two rockets Tuesday at the town of Al Amar in south Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

(Continued on page 4)

## Mideast turns punching bag for U.S. Democrats

By Michael Posner

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential hopefuls have stepped up their campaigns with a flurry of rhetoric over the Middle East after months of gentle sparring over trade, farm and budget matters.

Battling for the sizeable Jewish vote in the April 19 New York primary election, frontrunner Michael Dukakis and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore have been trying to outbid each other as the leading champion of Israel.

Blacks civil rights campaigner Jesse Jackson, who is snapping at the heels of Dukakis, has made overtures to Jews unhappy with his past views.

Massachusetts Governor Dukakis has worried some Jews with a hint of flexibility towards Palestinian demands for a homeland and Jackson has upset his Arab-American supporters by seeming to back off a bit.

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from his pro-Palestinian stance.

At least 140 Palestinians have died in the uprising and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline has come under fire from many American Jews.

Ironically, the Dukakis-Gore battle improves the New York prospects of Jackson, who angered Jews in 1984 by referring to them as "hyenas," an ethnic slur, and through his support for a Palestinian homeland in the Middle East.

If Dukakis and Gore split the Jewish vote, which accounts for about 25 per cent of the Democratic primary vote, Jackson could finish first.

Polls show Jackson likely to draw just a handful of Jewish votes. But he can count on solid support from his fellow blacks, who account for a quarter of New York's Democrats.

Dukakis, whose wife Katherine is Jewish, has won the bulk of the Jewish vote in primary and caucuses to date and many Jews think he is their best bet to

stop Jackson.

Dukakis upsets some

But he has upset some Jews by leaving the door open to a Palestinian state and with criticism of Shamir for rejecting Secretary of State George Shultz's bid for an international peace conference leading to Arab-Israeli talks.

In a speech Monday to Jewish leader, Dukakis would not rule out a Palestinian state. He said that was a matter of self rule and moves from there.

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refused to negotiate a Middle East peace.

Gore consistent

Gore has been more consistent in backing Israeli policy. He has sided with Shamir on an international conference, strongly rejected a Palestinian state, and pointedly chastised Jackson for his public embrace of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

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Jackson's campaign manager, Gerald Austin, told Reuters Jackson planned no grand gestures towards Jewish voters.

Austin, who is Jewish, said Jackson had apologised for the "hyphen" remark and there would be no dramatic attempt to make peace with Koch or Jewish leaders.

"We're not talking to Jews. We're talking to people in New York City, a lot of whom happen to be Jews," Austin said.

But Jackson said in a television interview Sunday that he would not negotiate with Arafat if elected president. "Our first obligation ought to be to assure Israel's security, and make it clear that a part of Israel's security is convincing the Palestinians to recognise their right to exist," he added.

Jackson has been strongly critical of Israel's use of military force to quell the Palestinian uprising, but he has drawn fire from some Arab groups in the United States.

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## Free zones hope to attract more investments

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Free Zones Corporation (FZC) is simplifying its regulations and procedures as well as reducing charges for its various facilities in Aqaba and Zarqa and near Ramtha, in a bid to attract more investors and industrialists, according to the FZC director-general.

Yassin Al Kayed also revealed that the corporation had given primary approval for a proposal to set up a Syrian-Chinese joint venture in the joint Jordanian-Syrian free zone near Ramtha. In fact, the plant, which will process vegetable oil, will be the first facility to be set up in the zone, which was established in early 1986 but lacked takers until now.

In an interview with the Jordan Times early this week, Kayed expressed optimism that the performance of the corporation would be considerably improved with more simplified regulations and procedures. Asked what was the main reason behind the free zone idea falling short of initial expectations, Kayed cited effects of the world economic recession. According to economists, "interference from authorities outside the corporation" is also one of the factors that contribute to dissuading potential investors.

"We are now trying to simplify the procedures involved in leasing our facilities," Kayed said. "We will also reduce the leasing charges and we hope that the net result will be highly promising." He did not spell out what the simplification process entails.

According to the statute of the corporation, all industrial units set up inside the free zones are exempt from all local regulations and can operate as independent entities subject to certain conditions laid down by the corporation. However, the interpretation of this particular aspect of the statute has always been very vague, according to an economist analyst. "Various other government departments, including the municipalities, the Civil Defence Department and the Ministry of Labour, appear to treat industrial units within the zone as part of their domain and try to exercise control over them," the analyst said.

Obviously, though Kayed did not say so, eliminating this kind of "interference" is the central theme of the changes that the corporation plans to introduce.

"We are optimistic that the free zones will be doing very well in another three to five years," he said.

FZC figures indicate that the corporation was able to pay all its current expenditure and meet debt and interest payments on time during the year 1987, for the first time since the corporation was established in 1976.

### Started in 1973

The idea of free zones took shape in Jordan in 1973 when the Ministry of Transport designated an area at Aqaba for storage of goods destined for onward shipment to neighbouring Arab countries, including the Gulf states.

The Free Zones Corporation was set up in 1976 as an independent autonomous organisation. Now, the Aqaba free zone has a total area of almost one million square metres — about 25,000 square metres of large storage warehouses and 300,000 square metres of paved open yards and cold storage facilities with a capacity of 6,000 tonnes. The area is provided with all essential services, including water supply, power, and all communications facilities as well as cargo handling equipment.

The total volume of goods handled by the Aqaba free zone in 1987 was 91,000 tonnes, an increase of 11,000 tonnes over 1986.

The Zarqa free zone, which was set up in 1983, has a total

general area of 5.5 million square metres. The first phase of the zone comprised 125,000 square metres designated as "industrial investment sector" with 28 units, 250,000 square metres assigned for commercial warehouses and exhibition facilities with 150 units, 125,000 square metres for a motor car market with 109 sections and 26,000 square metres of warehouses for general storage. The total investment by the various users of the facilities is estimated to be over JD 75 million.

The Zarqa free zone, which is also equipped with industrial power, water and modern communication facilities handled 56,000 tonnes of goods in 1987, an increase of 12,000 tonnes over 1986.

At present nine industrial plants are operating in the Zarqa free zone producing vegetable oil, readymade garments, agricultural equipment and wooden furniture. They include a very large printing press, Kayed added. About 30 per cent of the production from the plants enter the local market and the rest is exported to other countries in the region, he said.

In addition, the motor car market in Zarqa is doing very well, according to the FZC director general.

### Duty-free Aqaba

Kayed said a proposal to declare the whole Aqaba as a free



Yassin Kayed

zone was under consideration but no solid step had been taken yet.

The idea behind the proposal is multi-fold," he said. "A totally duty-free Aqaba can serve the needs of the Gulf Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq as well as Egypt in addition to attracting Jordanians who go to Europe for shopping."

Last, but not the least, it will also help boost tourism and give the hotels in the area much-needed business, he noted. "Of course, hotel facilities, air and sea travel arrangements etc. will also have to be scaled up to meet the potentially high demand," he added.

Kayed said one of the potential problems would be the flow of duty-unpaid foreign goods into the country. But, he noted,

Aqaba is relatively a small area with the sea in the south and high mountains on the east and access to the area is limited to one main road. "Therefore, we should be able to control the situation," he said.

Kayed admitted that business response to the joint Jordanian-Syrian free zone, which opened its doors in 1986, has been practically non-existent. The zone comprises of a total area of 6,000 dunums situated 12 kilometres east of Ramtha. About one quarter of the area is ready for use, with all infrastructure, he said, but there has been very little business interest in the facility. "However, there are recent signs of new interest in the zone. We have given the primary approval for setting up a plant to process vegetable oil under a Syrian-Chinese venture," he said. He said he could not provide details since the project was in its primary stages.

### Self-supporting

The government investments in the free zones are over JD 8 million, excluding the cost of land and operational requirements such as motor vehicles and equipment. Actual figures of its income and expenditure for the year 1987 were not available but Muhamed Abu Muhareb, chief of the investments division of the corporation, said that since the beginning of 1987 the corporation was able to meet its expenditure

as well as pay debt and interest remittances from its own revenues.

The corporation, which has not set any minimum capital for projects set up in the free zones, receives direct applications which are studied by a three-member panel consisting of a representative each from the Central Bank of Jordan, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the FZC. After evaluation and approval by the panel, the project proposal is sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for consultation purposes, Abu Muhareb said. He stressed that the ministry had no say whether to approve or reject the project but would only make its observations — whether the proposed project has any adverse impact on the local industry — and assessments and forward it to the full board of directors of the FZC which reserves the right to issue the final decision. The board consists of the minister of finance as chairman, the FZC director general as vice-chairman and a representative each of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Finance and Customs, the Ministry of Transport and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The corporation acts as the liaison link between the establishments working within the free zones and the various departments and organisations within the country.

A decision taken by the council of ministers in 1979 designates the approved categories of industries that could be set up in the free zones. The categories include publication and printing, education equipment, metal processing plants, transport and motor vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment, machinery, plastics, food and medicine, building material, wood, toy, textiles, chemicals and light defence products.

Incentives offered by the government for investment activities in the free zones include a seven-year exemption from income and social affairs tax for owners except over profits derived from goods released for consumption in Jordan, exemption from import licence fee and other related charges and exemption from land and building licensing charges. In addition, the salaries and allowances of employees are exempted from income tax and social affairs tax. Above all, transfer of profits to outside the country is freely allowed.

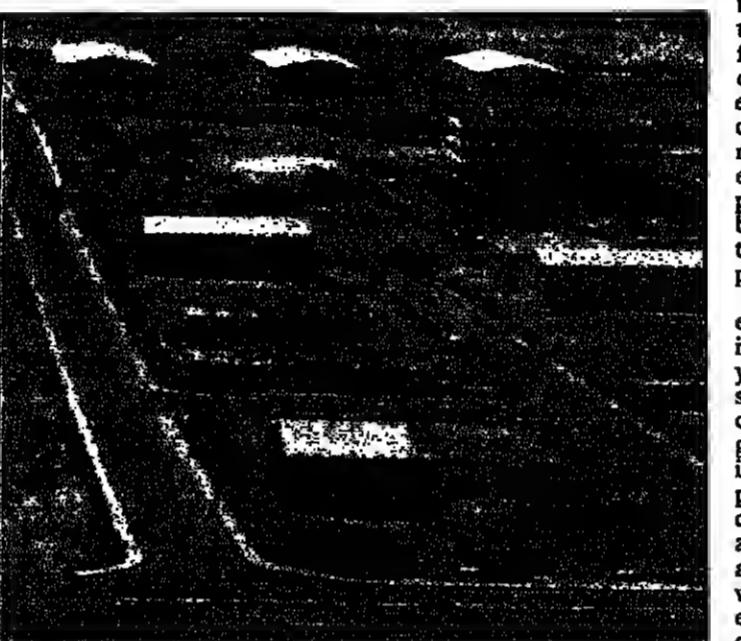
**AFRICA CLOSURE:** The governor of Tafileh has ordered the closure of Afra mineral water complex as of Wednesday until further notice to allow for construction work at the site to progress without interruption. The governor ordered visitors and vacationers be allowed in or swim in the area until the construction and maintenance work at the site were completed.

**HORSE SHOW:** A horse show will be held at the Arabian Horse Club Friday April 15, at 4:00 p.m. Competing in the show jumping events will be Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Hani Bisharat and others. Saturday will see a polo match between the visiting Iraqi team and the Jordanian team at the Zarqa Polo Ground.

**SINAI-AQABA TIES:** The governors of northern Sinai and Aqaba have signed documents paving the way for bilateral cooperation in youth and cultural affairs. The signing according to Al Dustour Arabic daily took place here by a Jordanian delegation visiting northern Sinai and the head of local council



The Aqaba Free Zone



The Zarqa Free Zone

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 ..... Programme Review  
15:30 ..... Children programmes  
17:15 ..... Different strokes  
18:10 ..... Moving Camera  
18:45 ..... Health and Life (local)

19:20 ..... World news reports  
19:30 ..... Programme review  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
21:30 ..... Review of next week's programme  
22:00 ..... Arabic film

23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Film contd.

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Rue Camot  
18:30 ..... The Magical World of Chantal Goya  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... French Varieties  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
21:10 ..... Kate and Allie  
22:00 ..... Wish Me Luck  
22:30 ..... News in English  
22:50 ..... Feature film "Cause Celebre"

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07:00 ..... Light Music  
07:30 ..... Newsdesk  
08:00 ..... Morning Show  
10:00 ..... Morning Show Contd.  
11:00 ..... Hitsville: The Story of Motown  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:30 ..... News in French  
13:00 ..... French Varieties  
13:45 ..... News Summary  
14:00 ..... Pop Session  
14:45 ..... News Bulletin  
15:00 ..... Hall of Fame  
15:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:00 ..... News Summary  
16:30 ..... Old Favourites  
17:00 ..... Hitsville: The Story of Motown  
17:30 ..... Good Vibrations  
18:00 ..... News Summary  
18:45 ..... Our Mutual Friend  
19:00 ..... Music  
19:30 ..... Date with a Star  
20:00 ..... Evening Show  
21:00 ..... News Summary  
21:45 ..... Evening Show Contd.  
22:00 ..... News Summary

22:00 ..... Evening Show Contd.  
23:00 ..... News Summary  
23:30 ..... Evening Show Contd.  
24:00 ..... Close Down

### BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:20 Peeples' Hours 08:45 The World Today 09:40 News 09:45 Q&A 09:55 Arabic series

10:00 Review of next week's programme  
10:30 Review of next week's programme  
11:00 Arabic film

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## Sharif Zaid attends ceremony at Yarmouk

IRBD (Petra, 3.T.) — A ceremony was held in Irbid for transferring the Yarmouk torch from the ancient site of the Battle of Yarmouk, west of the Salam University town, to the Yarmouk University campus.

The Battle of Yarmouk was fought between the Arabs led by Khalid Ibn Al Walid and the Byzantine forces, and ended in a decisive victory for the Arab forces in the year 636 A.D.

Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior army officers attended the ceremony, during which the torch was brought into the campus by marathon runners and handed to Sharif Zaid who installed it at its new site.

After the ceremony, Sharif Zaid opened an exhibition, displaying traditional art and national heritage along with national costumes, and artificial flowers. He also attended a variety show organised at the Yarmouk University, and received the university's Khalid Ibn Al Walid shield from President Mohammad Hamdan commemorating the event and the university's 10th anniversary.

## Experts review programmes for aiding handicapped

By Rania Atalla  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Swedish participants in a joint seminar on child health care and the rehabilitation of the handicapped, which opened here Wednesday, exchanged experience and expertise, highlighting the need for further cooperation in matters of research, policies and programmes.

During the seminar — which was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Swedish Embassy, the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR) and the Radda Barnen Institute for Child Health Care and Development — experts from both countries reviewed policies and programmes for child health care and for the rehabilitation of the handicapped in their respective countries.

Speaking on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid said "the continuous exchange of expertise (between Jordan and Sweden) gives us an added incentive to make the right choices in selecting priorities in matters related to the rehabilitation of the handicapped."

"Since His Majesty King Hussein has stressed that our citizens are our most valuable asset, Jordan is working to minimise the risks of retardation affecting children," Prince Ra'd said.

Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lounbeck said "thanks to the work of the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief and the Radda Barnen, we have felt a special closeness in cooperating with Jordanians."

"Though we are still only at the beginning, we have already started exchanging expertise on the ministerial level," the ambassador added.

Also addressing participants of the seminar was Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development Dr. Mohammad Al Saqour who presented the ministry's policy and future plans regarding the handicapped in Jordan.

"If the existing positive approach towards the handicapped is to lead to their participation in the development of this country, then certain principles have to be adhered," Saqour

## Prince Hassan chairs meeting on development of Hammad Basin

AMMAN (Petra, 3.T.) — Regional development in Jordan, projects to develop the Hammad Basin near the Iraqi border and two semi-arid regions in south and south-east Jordan were discussed at a meeting held at the prime minister's office Wednesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan first held a closed meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and then they were joined for an enlarged meeting that grouped ministers of agriculture, water and irrigation, planning, interior, municipal and rural affairs as well as a number of senior officials.

Projects in the eight development regions of the Kingdom were reviewed by the meeting, which stressed the importance of

constant coordination among various concerned departments and the private sector in the course of implementing schemes.

Emphasis was laid on the implementation of housing projects for government employees in different regions, and near and around development projects.

Participants in the meeting agreed on the need to give due care for the development of badia regions and benefit from the experiments of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

Prince Hassan, the prime minister and the participants heard a briefing on the implementation of the Hammad Basin and the development schemes to be carried out within the basin zone, which will have an overall cost of JD 3.6 million.

## Project management seminar ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-week seminar on project management organised by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah, ended in Amman Wednesday.

The seminar was designed to orient participants on planning and executing projects and va-

rious techniques used in their management and their control.

A total of 22 participants, representing credit, investment and financing corporations and organisations in 15 Arab countries, took part in the seminar, hearing a total of 13 lectures and making field trips to local organisations.

The Islamic Development Bank's Institute for Research and

Training, which arranged for the seminar, was established in 1979 to carry out training and research activity in cooperation with IDB's member states.

The IDB itself was established in 1975 for the purpose of supporting and financing the economies of Islamic countries.

A total of 43 Islamic countries hold capital in the IDB.

international sectors, for cooperating with the ministry on issues related to the handicapped. Saqour also acknowledged these organisations' efforts to improve the conditions of the handicapped in Jordan.

Head of the children's section at the Al Bashir Hospital, Dr. Sa'd Al Azzah, gave a presentation on the health condition of children in Jordan and the future plans on the matter.

Jordan has adopted the strategy of 'health for all by the year 2000' which calls for providing primary health care for every citizen, with special emphasis on mothers and children," according to Azzah.

Citing vital statistics on conditions of children in the Kingdom, Azzah said the Health Ministry is working to improve many of them, such as the tetanus immunisation rate for pregnant women, which is now believed to be only 50 per cent.

The programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development are but a prelude for integrating the handicapped into society," Saqour said, adding that since incidents of people becoming handicapped are a result of identifiable environmental and genetic factors which can be controlled, the ministry is concerned with the preventive aspects of the issue.

The ministry believes that the best way to achieve these goals is to adopt and improve on the principle of primary health care, with special emphasis on preventive measures especially through increasing awareness and improving the environment."

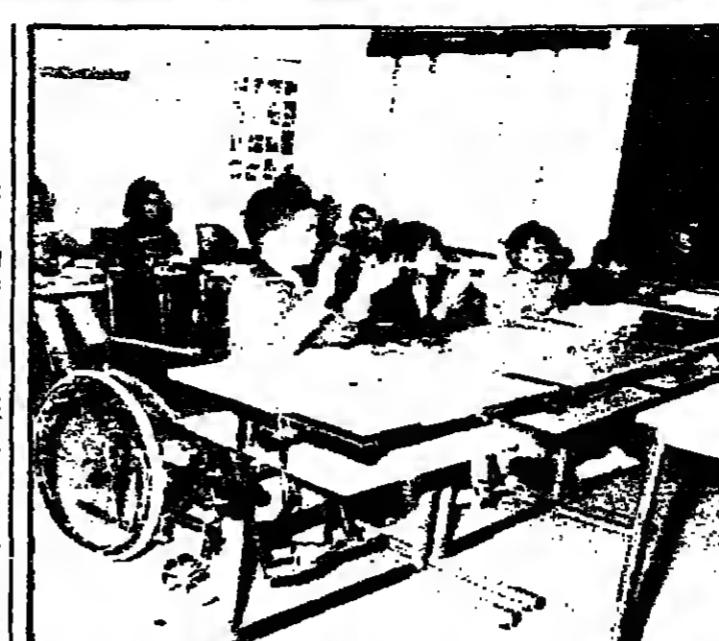
He added that the ministry also believes in implementing the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) strategy of monitoring child growth, by promoting oral rehydration treatment, breast feeding, immunisation and child spacing.

During the seminar, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh surprised the participants when he announced that "the Ministry of Health will start providing hearing aids to schoolchildren with hearing difficulties at a token price, which will be subsidised by the ministry." The token price was not specified.

The Ministry of Health already provides free prescription glasses for schoolchildren in Jordan, Hamzeh said.

In the afternoon session, director of SOIR Angelo Jayakody gave a presentation entitled "Twenty years of work in Jordan" in which he reviewed SOIR's activities in Jordan since 1968.

Dr. Staffan Janson, head of Radda Barnen gave a presentation entitled "severe mental retardation among Jordanian children."



Physically handicapped children are trained, by Queen Alia Fund sponsored centres, to become active and productive members of the Jordanian society.



Jordanian women develop their skills at centres supported by the Queen Alia Fund.

## Princess Basma highlights experiences of Queen Alia Fund after 10 years

## QAF seeks to train teachers for more professional approach

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) ended its tenth year in operation with an aim to shift gears and move towards professionalisation of its services through more advanced training of its teachers and workers, and practical application of expertise gained in the first ten years.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the fund's chairman of the board of trustees, told reporters Wednesday, that in its plans for the future the fund hopes to "concentrate more on training the workers at the fund's centres for a more professional approach."

At a press conference held at the fund's centre, Princess Basma said that since its establishment, the fund has concentrated on social welfare work aimed at supporting and developing the activities of existing welfare organisations, as well as establishing new centres, especially in rural areas.

The fund has so far established nineteen social welfare centres, which constitute 75 per cent of the total of such centres established in the Kingdom, as well as four rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

The fund's support, Princess Basma added, came in the form of help in the areas of child care, Jordanian women skill development, health and social education as well as the development of education services for the handicapped in Jordan.

In his conclusion, Janson said that "etiology of severe mental retardation in the investigated group seemed related to two main factors:

— Cerebral Palsy resulted mostly from high perinatal morbidity or meningitis in infancy;

— The high degree of intermarriage with a high frequency of retarded sibling suggested a concentration of negative hereditary influence."

The above findings underscore the value of furthering antenatal and perinatal care, especially for poor people, as well as a need for genetic study and counselling," Janson concluded.

The seminar, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Majida, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and representatives from the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Queen Alia Fund, and other international organisations.

with helpful co-operation of government agencies and private institutions.

The fund operates according to the following principles and aims: To bring together all possible means of support for the government's efforts to develop comprehensive social welfare services; to foster a generation of men and women characterised by their ability to shoulder responsibilities so that they may voluntarily participate in the development of their communities.

Accordingly, she added, "one of the cornerstones of the fund's policy is to extend and maintain strong ties with human development organisations throughout the world."

Future plans for the fund include the establishment of more centres for social services, programmes for the handicapped, child care centres, a programme to support social organisations in rural development programme and a programme for the development of research and study centres for social services.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday chairs a meeting of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (Petra photo)

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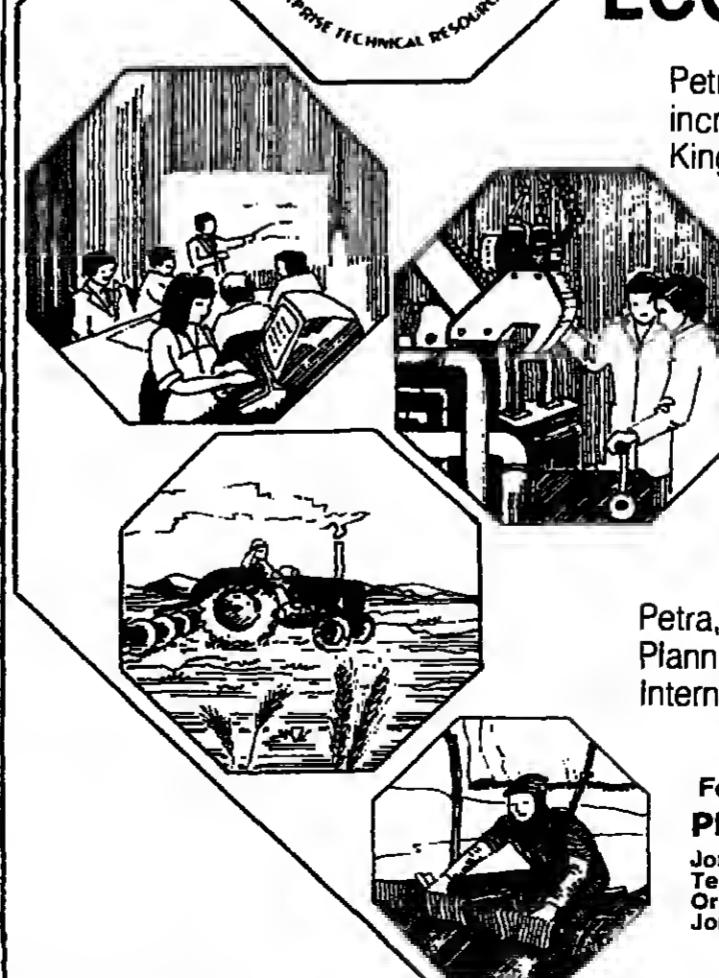
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## Lecture to discuss latest mosaic finds in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A leading expert of mosaics in Jordan, Father Michele Piccirillo, will deliver a lecture Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre on latest mosaic finds in Jordan.

The lecture, entitled "Archaeological Excavations at Ayoun Mousa-Mount Nebo, 1984 to 1987," is organised by the Italian embassy in cooperation with the Friends of Archaeology.

Fr. Piccirillo is a professor of Biblical history and geography at the "Stadium" Biblical Franciscanum" and has a doctorate degree in archaeology from the University of Rome.

Since 1974, Fr. Piccirillo has carried out excavation and restoration works at the Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo near Madaba.

The lecture is being held on the occasion of the first centennial of the publication by F. Gamurrini of Egeria's Travels to the Memorial of Moses in Arabia (Arezzo, Italy, 1887).

An international conference dedicated to the Latin Itinerar-

ium Egeriae (Codex Aretinus 405) on the occasion of the first centennial of its discovery and publication by F. Gamurrini in Arezzo, has called attention to the archaeological researches conducted by the Franciscan Archaeological Institute, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, along the Roman road taken by the pilgrim to reach the Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo.

Egeria — as she writes in her memoirs — left Jerusalem at the end of the IVth century with the intention of reaching the sanctuary of Moses on Mount Nebo in Arabia. After going down to Jericho and crossing the Jordan, she stopped at Livia-Tell er Rameb, at the foot of the mountain.

Accompanied by a priest of the city "who knew the places well," she took the Roman road which goes from Livia to Esbur on the high plateau. At the 11th milestone, a detour from the main road led her to the Springs of

constant coordination among various concerned departments and the private sector in the course of implementing schemes.

Emphasis was laid on the implementation of housing projects for government employees in different regions, and near and around development projects.

The meeting was told that machinery for these development projects began to arrive at the region of the Hammad Basin, and a tender for drilling artesian wells and building dams for the agricultural projects are to be announced soon.

Participants in the meeting agreed on the need to give due care for the development of badia regions and benefit from the experiments of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

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## Afghan peace — who will pay the price?

MONDAY's announcement that Washington has accepted the U.N.-mediated agreement to end the Afghan conflict, and that Secretary of State George Shultz will sign the accord with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in Geneva Thursday, is one of the most welcome developments in contemporary international relations. Washington's acceptance of the accord, coupled with Moscow's pledge to start withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan on May 15, signals the beginning of the end of one of the longest protracted regional conflicts pitting superpowers and their proxy forces. While we do not care to figure out who came out the winner in the complex bargaining that produced the agreement, we cannot dismiss the apprehension that a superpower deal may have been struck at the expense of a people who have suffered beyond description and sacrificed much in their quest for freedom and self-determination. We can only sincerely hope that this was not the case, and look forward to the peaceful return of the displaced Afghan people to their homeland to exercise their national rights and to enable their country to assume its role in the international scene as a non-aligned Islamic state.

The fine print of the Afghan agreement is yet to be known; but, notwithstanding the scepticism that some of the key issues have been skirted leaving the scene wide open for a free-for-all kind of civil war among the various Afghan factions — the Kabul government included — the Geneva accord could be seen as a good start as any for Afghan reconciliation. At the same time, the reconciliation process should indeed be initiated by the superpowers, who will serve as guarantors of the Geneva accord; any move by either Washington or Moscow to disengage themselves from the collective responsibility for the situation they would be leaving behind will only herald more bloodshed and carnage, after the eight years of war that the Afghan people lived through. Quite simply, both superpowers should ensure that the climate is set in Afghanistan for dialogue and peaceful negotiations among the rival factions, in such a manner that applies the inalienable rights of the Afghan people to choose their own government and to live in freedom and dignity. Anything short of that would be a disheartening superpower signal to all freedom-loving people in the world.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Seeking others help

IN the light of the serious developments in the occupied Arab territories and in view of continued Israeli terrorist activity, the need is great now for international community's interference to force Israel to desist from committing atrocities against the Arab population. Jordan chose to seek the European Community countries' assistance in this regard in view of the role which European countries' can play in our region and as Europe has maintained its independence from U.S. influence in the past. Jordan has asked the EC countries to exert pressure on Israel and stop its acts of deportation, the demolition of Arab homes, violation of Arab people's human rights and to stop killing and wounding innocent civilians. The European Community countries possess vast diplomatic and economic power and are capable of exercising influence on the Israelis to force them to stop their actions. Of course, we do not expect from the Europeans to act for the Arabs in confronting the common Israeli danger, but we expect the Europeans to take meaningful action in stopping the Israelis from committing further crimes. We realise that the European influence alone cannot change the situation nor can it end Israel's aggressive policies, but we expect to see such pressure being exerted on Israel to show the world's total repugnance of such actions as those being exercised on the Arab people. But it remains for the Arabs to end this intolerable situation and join in the struggle for regaining their rights and their usurped land.

### Al Dustour: Passive stand

DESPITE worldwide condemnation of Israel's violations of human right and deportation of Arab residents, the Israeli leaders continue to race against time in their drive to enforce more arbitrary measures against the oppressed Palestinian people under their control. What happened at the Arab village of Beita near Nablus provides proof of Israel's escalation of terrorist actions. At the same time, we have been hearing statements by extremist elements in the Israeli government, calling for razing the village to the ground in revenge for the killing of the Jewish girl, despite their knowledge that she was killed by one of her friends during their attack on the village. This show of hatred to the Arabs and the subsequent deportation of eight Arab men to Lebanon, clearly manifests the criminal nature of the Zionist rulers. Of course, these extremist Israeli measures are being taken to stem the on-going uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to stifle the spirit of Arab resistance. But these stepped up practices are being encouraged by the lack of international reaction to Israel's criminal measures, and the passive Arab stand with regard to the repression being practised against their kinsmen. Even the U.N. Security Council has been barred from condemning Israel's actions, thanks to the veto power of the U.S. which continues to back Israel.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Distorted picture

THE hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner have succeeded in presenting a distorted picture of Islam to the outside world through their terrorist action which is condemned by all countries. The hijackers are trying to advocate their cause: Namely the release of criminals from Kuwaiti jails, through more criminal actions against innocent people. The hijackers are assuming the name of Islam and committing their actions in the name of Islam with the sole purpose of distorting the image of this faith, and they are being encouraged to do so by a country which claims to be a supporter of Islam. This country extorts a friendly hand to the Israelis and the Zionists who continue to commit atrocities in the Palestinian land and against Muslim people. This Islamic country which is in alliance with Israel continues to obtain weapons from Israel to kill Muslim people in Iraq, and at the same time encourage criminals to commit terrorist actions. All this is being done to divert world attention from the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories where the Palestinians are rising to free themselves from Israeli occupation.

# War or peace in the Middle East?

By Waleed Sadi

THERE is an emergence of a consensus in the Arab World and perhaps worldwide that the fate of the U.S. Mideast peace initiative will be a slow agonising death because of Israel's deep-rooted objections to its salient features. In some Arab quarters the projected defeat of this peace plan is being met with a sense of ironic euphoria. Mr. George Shultz himself, the carrier of the peace formula, has all but given up on his mission to persuade the relevant parties to acquiesce to his peace ideas. On many fundamental points he must have noticed that the differences between the Arab and Israeli sides were irreconcilable. The Middle East jigsaw puzzle is thus becoming so complex that it needs more than a masterful juggler of conflicting perspectives and objectives to put it together.

The Arab parties most immediately concerned with the Palestine case and the Arab-Israeli conflict must have taken this preordained route rather stoically in view of the fact that they have gotten accustomed to doom and gloom every time a peace initiative is kicked off by one side or another. The chronicle of the various inconsequential peace formulas submitted on behalf of the Palestine case since its inception bears out this perennial pessimism. The Arabs have therefore developed a predisposed inkling that Mr. Shultz's most recent long shot at the Arab-Israeli conflict would not be any different from all the others which had preceded it. Indeed the Arab political psychology has gotten to be so dubious and agnostic about any offers of peace that they stand to precipitously reject even a genuinely sound peace plan.

But now that we the Arabs are gazing on a dying peace plan, the question that poses itself is: What next? In other words what contingency or alternative plans do we have available to us at this critical juncture to confront the chronic situation that emerges every time we have a deflated peace formula sitting on our laps?

The immediate option that comes to mind is to declare to the Arab peoples concerned first and to Israel second and to the world at large that after twenty years of trying to strike a reasonable deal with Israel, the Arab parties have regrettably come to a dead end with no real hope to settle peacefully the Arab-Israeli conflict. Accordingly, the Arab parties have decided with agonising reluctance

to suspend all efforts aiming at a peacefully negotiated permanent and just solution of the Palestine case and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict, pending the creation and attainment of fresh political, economic and military climate conducive for such objectives.

I believe that the mere declaration of the bankruptcy of all efforts for the peaceful resolution of the outstanding disputes and conflicts between the Arab and Israel could serve as a "shock treatment" that could awaken Israel and the rest of the powers that stand with it to the bitter fact that the Arab side has been cornered long enough and is being left with no option except to seek other avenues for obtaining their rights. The Arab side must hint at least that the medicine that they have in mind could be very bitter to both sides and would be prescribed and administered on a generational basis if necessary. Meanwhile, all sides to the conflict and other powers ostensibly concerned with the Middle East would be asked to take stock of what had transpired in the region over the last four decades and attempt to draw the necessary conclusions. The Middle East is already a powder keg and with the introduction of nuclear and chemical weapons and intermediate ballistic delivery systems, it could end up being one hell of an explosive charge that could blow to smithereens the security of not only this region of the world but also the security of other regions as well. Surely it would then dawn on Israel and the countries that support it that boycotting the peace process and putting militarism on high pitch could provide radicalism in the region with the kind of environment that they could feed on most. And let there be no mistake about it, the fire that could ensue from such a situation would engulf the Israelis most.

Meanwhile the Arab parties can exploit this abandonment of the peace process and the placement of the quest for peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts in a state of suspended animation, to engage in a cool headed planning and coordination away from the limelight of the "peace process" and the tensions associated with it. Maybe, just maybe, the Arab parties can then forge a truly in-depth common strategy among themselves with

which they can confront Israel's intransigence in a more credible way. Should the Arab side succeed in establishing a persuasive and concrete united front, the message of such unity will not be lost on Israel and the capitals that stand behind it.

What remains to be done on the short and intermediate run is to bolster and fortify the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. First and foremost we have to keep in focus that the number one priority that supersedes all other priorities is to assist the Palestinian people there to maintain their vigilance and presence on their lands in the most viable manner. The survival of the Palestinian people on their territories should be the backbone of their steadfastness and offers the best insurance policy that the Arab side can have to salvage the situation at the appropriate time. And what the Palestinian people need most of all in the midst of their struggle for liberation is a multi-faceted, all embracing programme of action to consolidate their survival in their homeland till the Arab side attain the propitious circumstances to attain their ultimate objectives. In this vein, it would be prudent to recall the warning issued by Lord Winchelsea who headed a British delegation on a fact-finding mission to the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the eve of the popular Palestinian uprising. It will be recalled that he submitted an urgent report to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on his findings immediately upon his return to his country in which he forecasted a bloody uprising in the occupied Arab territories on a scale unknown before. He also warned that Israel may exploit this uprising to launch an armed attack on Syria ostensibly to knock out its chemical weapons and their delivery systems but also to affect and cause a massive expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from the occupied Arab territories in order to get rid of or defuse the demographic time bomb sitting on its lap. Lord Winchelsea was proven right when few days later the Palestinian uprising was ignited. The world must be now holding its breath lest his second forecast proves true also. The Arab side must be prepared for this possibility lest they be caught unguarded.

## Israeli army uses nerve gas against Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians by Israeli soldiers using batons made of iron rods covered with plastic.

"They hit the cheekbones, causing the eye to come out," he said. "There was such a degree of accuracy that they must have had training for this particular blow."

Hiddlestone said UNRWA had employed 20 specialists to help deal with the number of injured in its camps. Medical staff were working round the clock treating patients.

Sources in the Vienna headquarters of the agency said that since last December it had recorded a total of 3,252 Palestinians injured in clashes with Israeli forces.

These included 255 suffering from gunshot wounds, 1,779 from beatings, 197 from the effects of rubber bullets and 795 from tear-gas.

In the occupied territories, United Nations relief workers and Arab hospital officials said soldiers opened fire at protesters outside a school in Jahala camp, wounding 14-year-old Diah Ahmad Jaber in the left thigh.

Twenty other Palestinians were injured by tear-gas and rubber bullets, said Dr. Ahmad Yassif

of Gaza City's Shifa hospital, where some of the injured were treated.

In the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, soldiers confiscated identification documents from most of the men in the camp and told them they would have to pay their electricity and water bills before they would be returned, said U.N. official Eric Peterson, an administrator of the camps.

The army closed Jabalya and Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. Palestinian sources said telephone links were cut to Jabalya, where more than 1,000 schoolchildren demonstrated at military headquarters.

In Jerusalem, police arrested eight people in a raid on the offices of the Arab Study Society, an Arab Jerusalem research centre.

The Israel government press office has initiated a policy of preventing some Palestinian publications from distributing announcements in the mailboxes of local and foreign journalists there.

During the night, the office removed from the boxes a daily English summary of Arabic news from Arab Jerusalem newspapers issued by the Al Fajr daily.

The Israeli newspaper

Israel's destruction of Arab houses in the occupied territories, which has left more than 100 people homeless, Bauder said.

Egypt said Wednesday that the Israeli expulsion obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

A Foreign Ministry statement also said the latest expulsions contradicted United Nations resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Convention.

"Egypt strongly condemns Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians which violate international law," said.

"We regret that such actions are taken at a time when better conditions are needed to push forward current efforts for a peaceful settlement in the region."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir threatened Tuesday to deport more Palestinians to end the Palestinian uprising.

"Deportation is one of the means of punishment we use to deter those who violate law and order. When there will be need in that we will use it," Shamir added.

"We have to continue to build the kingdom of Israel, the land of Israel, the homeland of Jewish people," he declared while touring a town in southern Israel."

## Hijack negotiations enter 'delicate stage' on Algiers tarmac

(Continued from page 1)

The Boeing 747 left Larnaca and flew to Algiers early Wednesday after 12 more hostages were released.

The plane was parked in the open on the tarmac at Houari Boumediene airport, where temperatures before noon reached 24 degrees Centigrade (75 Fahrenheit). Officials said it would be much hotter inside the aircraft.

Earlier, Algerian Interior Minister Ali Hadi Khedri spent 48 minutes on the plane talking to the hijackers, who are widely believed to be Shi'ite Muslim

supporters of Lebanon's militant Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) faction.

Khedri said the hijackers, armed with machine-guns, had promised to try to avoid harming their remaining 32 hostages but described them as determined to pursue their demand.

"They told me they would try to be very calm, to not use any violence," he told reporters after meeting the gunmen.

He said the hostages, who include three members of Kuwait's Al Sabah royal family, were in good health.

Khedri then spent 45 minutes with the head of the eight-man

Kuwaiti negotiating team. The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammad Al Osaimi, arrived in an executive jet and parked 400 metres from the hijacked Boeing.

In Kuwait, Algerian Ambassador Al Hasnaoui Khalid told Reuters Algiers had stipulated before accepting the plane that the hostages would have to be released.

He said both Kuwait and the gunmen understood that the hijackers would go free in exchange for releasing their captives.

Hostages released Tuesday in Cyprus said they had been kept in handcuffs by the hijackers, who wore masks at all times and communicated

### Iran says Iranians mauled in Kurdistan

(Continued from page 1)

in Al Amarah, 60 kilometres from the Iranian border, in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on Tehran and Tahriz Tuesday.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Wissam Zahawi, in New York for talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Tuesday saw no progress towards ending the war while Iran refused to accept Security Council Resolution 598.

Zahawi also said Iraq was ready to stop using chemical warfare if Iran agrees to do the same.

Asked about the use of poison gas, Zahawi told reporters Iraq was willing to sign an agreement that condemnation of Iraq as "the aggressor" was an essential part of any settlement.

He said "Iran also has used poisonous gas and we have... offered to sit and sign a commitment, an agreement... where both sides reaffirm their commitment to all international treaties, agreements and conventions and all the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations."

Zahawi was speaking to reporters after two days of meetings with Perez de Cuellar on prospects for ending the seven-and-a-half-year-old conflict.

Perez de Cuellar held similar talks last week with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani, who again stressed that condemnation of Iraq as "the aggressor" was an essential part of any settlement.

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**NAAA blasts U.S. policy**

WASHINGTON (R) — The president of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), attacked the United States Tuesday for failing to back up with action its condemnations of Israel's expulsion of Palestinians.

"The State Department publicly wrings its hands about the deportations, the beatings and the killings, but it refuses to consider any measures that would show the Israelis we were serious," David Sadd said in a statement.

"Considering that we (the United States) subsidise Israel through billions of dollars in aid,

loan interest forgiveness, free trade, defence giveaways and tax breaks, the U.S. government has lots of options it can use to catch (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's attention," he said.

"Israel Monday expelled eight Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza and said 12 more would be expelled at a later date. The move follows similar expulsions last January.

"The latest deportations show that Israeli policy is steadily aspiring to (expel) all Palestinians from their land rather than adopting a policy for human rights, including the basic rights of self-determination," Sadd said.

**Kissinger declines role as Mideast negotiator**

ATLANTA (R) — Henry Kissinger Tuesday rejected a suggestion by Richard Nixon, his former boss, that he be named a special U.S. negotiator on Middle East matters.

Kissinger, Nixon's national security affairs advisor and secretary of state, said the Middle East peace negotiator should be a part of the foreign policy machinery "with major influence on East-West negotiations, not just on the Middle East."

"When I was secretary of state, I did most of the negotiating," Kissinger told an audience of college students. "Secretary Shultz is in a good position now. I don't think he should be superseeded."

In a television interview last

weekend former President Nixon said a "full-time, heavyweight" negotiator was needed to resolve Middle East questions and suggested Kissinger be named to the post.

Kissinger criticised portions of the U.S. Middle East peace plan, which envisions an international conference.

"I do not favour bringing the Soviets back into the Middle East negotiations at least until they make their position clear," Kissinger said.

"As long as they are just the lawyers for the most radical Arabs, it will only result in a

situation in which the United States will be isolated in its position and get beaten to death by everyone," he contended.



**SETTLERS AGAINST EXPOSURE:** A Jewish settler with a pistol pulls down CBS cameraman Nim Devos to prevent him from filming in the occupied West Bank while AP photographer Aris Saris tries to help Devos as CBS soundman Shooman Mor looks on. Settlers are assuming a larger profile in attacks against Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza and support the Israeli army's ban against media access to the occupied territories.

**Eban backs Shultz plan**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, (R) — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Tuesday that Israel should begin negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation under the auspices of an international conference as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Eban disputed claims made by some Israeli hardliners that a conference would jeopardise Israel's "security" and said the Zionist state must accept the need to give up part of its total control in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"All the (previous) conferences we have had can be divided into two groups," Eban said. "Those which have done us some good and those which have done us no harm."

Eban is chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee and is a strong proponent of changing the political status of the occupied territories in exchange for peace.

In a lecture at Trinity University here, Eban said Israel could not hope to exist as a democracy with a territory where people had no access to political participation.

He emphasised that the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied territories could pose a cultural and political challenge to Israel's existence in the future.

"If we integrate them into our parliamentary system, we lose control," he said. "If we don't integrate them, we will cease to be a democracy."

**Judge scolds prosecutors for delaying Iran-contra trial**

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

A judge scolded prosecutors Tuesday for delaying the disclosure of evidence to the defence, which may delay the trial of four defendants accused of illegally diverting profits from the U.S.-Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, at a pre-trial hearing, expressed frustration that independent counsel Lawrence Walsh envisioned a lengthy process for turning over classified documents to the defendants, who likely saw the papers before they left gov-

ernment.

"Show the defence what your case is," Gesell told Herbert Stern, a former federal judge who is representing Walsh.

The judge also voiced annoyance about complaints that Walsh's staff has been slow to turn over documents to the team of lawyers representing Oliver North, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and two arms dealers, retired air force Major General Richard Secord and Albert Hakim.

"The government has been playing cat and mouse with us in

the case," said Poindexter's lawyer, Richard Beckler.

At a meeting the defence had with prosecutors last Friday, Beckler said: "We were basically told, 'we are not going to give you anything.' We are at real loggerheads."

Judge Gesell agreed with the defence lawyers Tuesday that the trial should not run into the presidential election campaign.

The trial will drag the embarrassing issue of the Reagan administration's greatest foreign policy blunder across the front pages one more time, posing political

problems for Vice President George Bush, who has a virtual lock on the Republican presidential nomination.

Defence lawyers have indicated that Bush may even be sought as a witness at the trial.

"I am concerned about the wisdom of having the trial underway when ballots are being cast," Gesell said.

"I am frightened to have the trial during a political campaign year," said North's lawyer, Brendan Sullivan.

But Gesell appeared to lean towards starting the trial as early

as possible — he suggested July 12 as a possibility — while Sullivan and other defence lawyers told him they would prefer it be put off until next year, following the elections and after Reagan leaves office.

Reagan has not ruled out a pardon for his former aides, but has said he would not consider one before a trial.

Gesell invited defence lawyers to file a motion challenging the White House for restrictions it has imposed on allowing them access to an estimated one million pages of classified documents.

# Mubarak agrees to meet Qadhafi

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak has accepted a proposal to meet with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi somewhere on the Egyptian-Libyan border or in Yugoslavia.

saying there were no troop concentrations at present on either side of the border and said the Libyan leader may want the frontier re-opened to "smuggle bombs" into Egypt.

"If we were to be serious, we should begin by allowing resumption of air traffic between the two countries," Mubarak said Tuesday.

"Why they (the Libyans) insist on land routes and nothing else, I know the full facts and my duty is to maintain Egypt's security and stability," Mubarak added.

Mubarak said Qadhafi was reinforcing some of his positions on the border at the same time that he made a speech March 28, announcing the withdrawal of his troops.

Two days later, Mubarak scoffed at Qadhafi's announcement,

## Mahdi moves to form new Sudan government

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, seeking to end Sudan's eight-month-old political crisis, has won parliamentary approval to establish a new, broad-based government.

Mahdi's proposals for a national unity government were supported by 229 deputies in the 301-seat house Tuesday.

Parliament approved the formation of a new government as soon as possible and urged a revision of all constitutional bodies in line with what it called a spirit of national unity.

The parliament vote meant that Mahdi's Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) — former partners in a crisis-prone coalition — could now join forces with the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), the main opposition party, and southern Sudanese parties in a new government.

Deputies from parties which supported the prime minister's proposals were meeting Wednesday to finalise future policies, the distribution of cabinet portfolios and the five seats of the Supreme Council. Sudan's collective presidency.

Political crisis has been a hallmark of party rule since democracy was restored in Sudan two years ago. The latest began last August when the DUP pulled out of the coalition in protest against the policies of Umma, the senior coalition partner.

The cabinet has since continued to function normally under an agreement between Mahdi and DUP leader Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani.

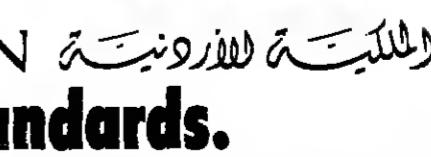
Mahdi brought the crisis to a head March 15 when he threatened to quit unless parliament approved a package of economic and political reforms.

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## World Bank establishes new agency to protect investments

WASHINGTON (R) — A World Bank agency designed to protect private investors from political risks in developing countries has been formally established after getting a final nod of approval from the United States and Britain.

World Bank President Barber Conable announced Tuesday that enough countries had ratified the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to allow its formation, and said a meeting would be held June 8 to establish its bylaws.

Conable said he was hopeful that MIGA, proposed for the first time two-and-a-half years ago, would begin insuring private investment sometime this year.

"Development demands investment," Conable told reporters, adding that direct private investment in developing countries had fallen to less than \$10 billion last year from \$16 billion in 1981.

He expressed hope this would be reversed with the help of

guarantees of commercial bank loans under certain circumstances.

Moreover, the agency might encourage Third World investors who have pulled funds out of their countries for more protective investment havens such as the United States to reinvest at home under the protection of MIGA.

The new agency comes into being as finance ministers and central bankers are holding semi-annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At its meeting here, the IMF has reached agreement on the creation of a pool of funds to protect developing countries against sudden and sustained increases in interest rates.

Details of the new facility have yet to be worked out, but it will go beyond the present compensatory financing facility that helps countries hurt by a sudden drop in exports due to conditions beyond their control.

MIGA, but said he could not quantify how great the improvement would be.

Bank officials stressed that MIGA's reach would go far beyond economic risks associated with armed conflict and civil unrest in Third World countries.

They told reporters that the agency would also cover the loss of profits a foreign investor could suffer if denied the right to repatriate funds from investments abroad.

In addition, investors would be protected if governments decided to repudiate contracts while denying investors a forum to appeal the ruling.

Conable said that in the future, the agency's operation might even be amended to allow



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan outlines new transport rules during a Wednesday press conference (Petra photo)

### Haj Hassan clarifies new transport rules

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Economic Security Committee's resolutions concerning axial weights for all lorries, including fuel tanker trucks and facilities and incentives for land transport companies and truck owners, will allow non-Jordanian trucks to transport agricultural and industrial products from and into the country freely and with no restrictions, Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Wednesday.

Passenger car registrations have dropped considerably, being 509,590 vehicles in calendar 1985, of which 120,600 were imported. The total in 1986 was 398,882 (76,733 imported), and in 1987 there were 364,029 (55,505 imported).

With induced lower prices and taking advantage of a lower Australian dollar, the government hopes that the Australian car industry can become a major exporter.

However, the Labour government, apparently to assuage unions, has retained the requirement that 85 per cent of the components in Australian cars should be made in Australia.

The resolution aims to stimulate the Jordanian transport sector and facilitate the flow of

goods between Jordan and Iran in bid to support that country's war efforts, Haj Hassan said.

He added that the resolution on axial weights aimed to provide protection to Jordanian roads and safeguard public safety.

This resolution is also aimed at tackling new developments and overcoming problems encountered by the transport sector to safeguard Jordan's higher economic interests, the minister noted.

He said that the resolution offered a time limit for truck owners to abide by the new regulations concerning axial weights. He emphasised that the fines imposed on those failing to abide

by the regulations by the end of 1988 were not intended to collect money for the treasury but to enforce the law and prevent trucks from carrying extra weights.

Trucks with non-Jordanian licence plates and owned by Jordanians are now allowed to obtain Jordanian licence plates and their owners can pay the customs duty on them by instalments over three years, Haj Hassan pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Public Works and Housing has been entrusted with providing balancing machines to help define the weights of each lorry.



Royal Jordanian Board Chairman Ali Ghandour addresses meeting of Arab Air Carriers Organisation (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

### Arab air chiefs discuss cooperation

By Lima Nabil  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The wind of change is beginning to blow in the direction of the air transport industry and the world is now witnessing the merger of major airlines in America and in Europe to confront mounting challenges to the modern civil aviation age.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Executive President and Board Chairman Ali Ghandour said here Wednesday.

He said that this development warrants increased interaction and coordination among Arab airlines to deal with any eventual challenge and new developments.

Ghandour said at a meeting of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) commercial committee at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

He said that the competition among Arab airlines should be on improving services and not on passenger seats or flights.

Ghandour added that a great deal hinges on the AACO's commercial committee which assumes a serious responsibility in Arab civil aviation.

The RJ chief urged the committee to serve as a catalyst to increase inter-cooperation among Arab airlines and help them to deal with world developments in the field of civil aviation.

AACO's Secretary General Adli Dajani made a speech at the meeting expressing the organisation's regret over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airline plane voicing hope that the affair will end in a peaceful settlement and bring an end to the ordeal of the passengers.

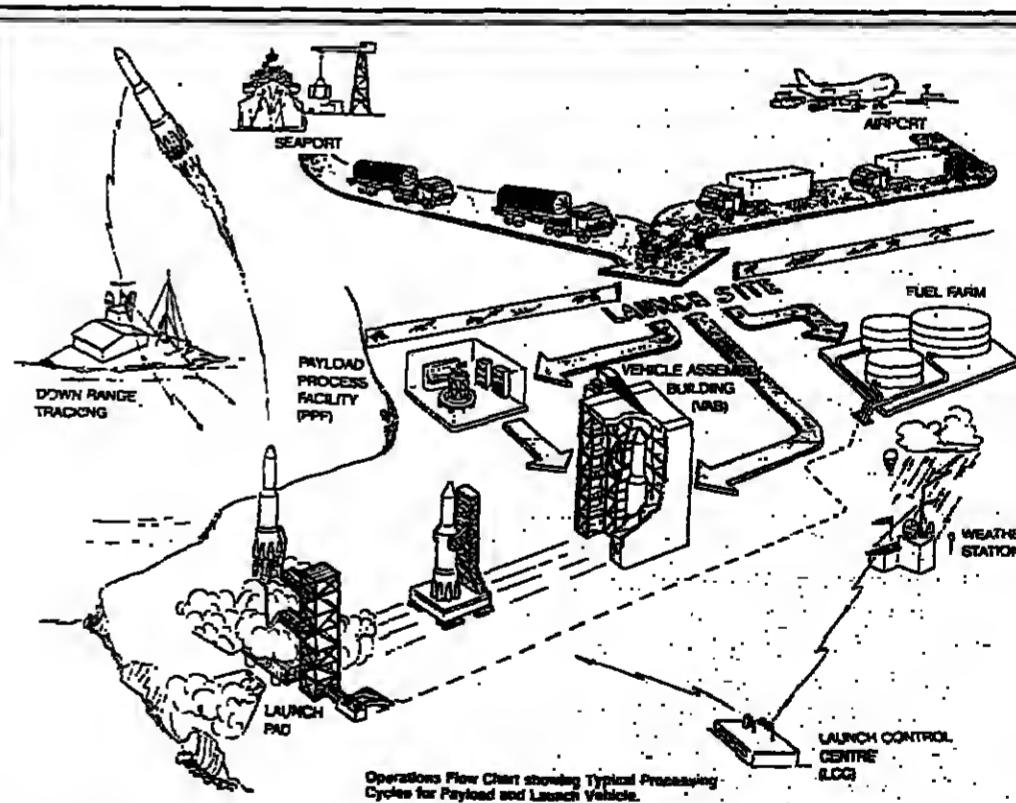
Dajani reviewed the committee's main topics before the meeting elected the Syrian delegate to serve as chairman of the committee.

Most Arab airlines are represented at the two-day meeting which will address a number of questions like automatic reservation and dealings with travel agents.

Also to be discussed is the U.S. Transport Department's new civil

aviation regulations, the recent Arab air markets' tariffs for economy class passengers and other related topics.

At the end of the first session, Dajani sent a cable on behalf of the delegates to the Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Ahmad Al Mushari expressing condemnation of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane as a terrorist act and voicing the organisation's solidarity and backing for the Kuwaiti Airways and all those who stood to suffer as a result of this affair.



AMMAN (Agencies) — TNT Limited, the world's largest transportation company, is lead member in a unique consortium beginning the massive task of undertaking a \$10 million feasibility study for the world's first commercial spaceport at Cape York, Australia.

Queensland Premier Mike Ahern said the company was the most advanced of 60 bidders for the task, in terms of conceptual development of the overall operation and management of a multi-national, multi-user, multi-pad space transportation centre.

by the Queensland government to coordinate the spaceport study.

Other members of the consortium include Kaisar Engineers, Shimizu Construction, JLC Aerospace, and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Queensland Premier Mike Ahern said the company was the most advanced of 60 bidders for the task, in terms of conceptual development of the overall operation and management of a multi-national, multi-user, multi-pad space transportation centre.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for Wednesday April 13, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	218555	JD 346281	374
Top three companies:			
National Steel Industry Co.	44900	JD 123237	89
Jordan Spinning and Weaving Co.	45050	JD 39394	44
Jordan Sulpho-Chemicals Co.	12236	JD 30225	40
Parallel market:	32262	JD 14222	—
Development bonds:	20024	JD 208599	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8435/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2360/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6923/29	Deutschmarks
	1.8985/95	Dutch guilders
	1.4008/18	Swiss francs
	35.37/42	Belgian francs
	5.7380/7410	French francs
	1255/1256	Italian lire
	126.75/85	Japanese yen
	5.9500/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2830/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.4825/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.40/448.90	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCKMARKETS

SYDNEY — All sectors of the national share market closed strongly higher in light turnover. The All Ordinaries Index rose 14.5 to 1,461.9.

TOKYO — Prices closed higher in robust trading on a stable dollar and Wall Street's overnight jump. The Nikkei Index rose 54.71 to 26,985.55.

HONG KONG — Prices closed firmer at the day's highest levels on strong buying interest, particularly from overseas. The Hang Seng Index rose 35.30 to 2,671.24.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed moderately higher across the board on speculative buying support in fairly active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 9.33 to 955.44.

BOMBAY — Widespread short-covering, spurred by continued buying by state investment institutions, helped shares close higher in moderate trading. Tata Steel rose 6.25 rupees to 680.

FRANKFURT — Early optimism again turned sour on West German bourses, with prices falling back from early highs to end mixed. The Commerzbank Index, set at mid-session, fell 8.9 to 1,414.9.

ZURICH — The exchange closed higher but below expectations, with foreign investors reining on the sidelines. The All-Share Swiss Index was up five to 839.3 towards the close.

PARIS — Prices started the main floor session firmer in active trading.

LONDON — Equities stayed firm in late trading. The dawn raid on Rowntree by the Swiss firm Jacobs Suchard fuelled interest throughout the day. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 9.7 to 1,815.0.

NEW YORK — Stocks continued to show losses in early trading but blue chips staged a small recovery. The Dow was down 15 at 2,095.

## Australia liberalises car imports

CANBERRA (R) — Australia took the brake off car imports Wednesday under a plan to make its own industry more competitive.

The new tariff-cutting measures lessen protection for the car industry by immediately abolishing rules limiting the number of imported cars to 20 per cent of the market at normal duty rates.

Any cars imported above quota have a massive 85 per cent duty on their price.

"This will help our car industry to improve its performance," John Button, industry, technology and commerce minister told reporters.

Tariffs, which currently raise the cost of imported cars by 57.5 per cent, will continue to be imposed on the cars but they will be progressively lowered.

They will be immediately cut to 45 per cent and reduced to a rate of 35 per cent by 1992, by which

time the government hopes to have totally revamped the car industry.

Under the government's overall plans for the car industry, launched in January 1985, the number of models produced in Australia has been reduced from 13 to eight.

The number of Australian carmakers is also down to five — Ford, Nissan, General Motors Holden, Mitsubishi and Toyota.

Of these producers, G.M.-Holden and Toyota intend to form a joint venture and Nissan and Ford are looking into opportunities for cooperation, Button said.

The ultimate aim is that, faced with the new foreign competition, Australian carmakers will price their cars more competitively, he said.

The on-the-road cost of an average family saloon is currently \$23,000 dollars (\$17,000), a price

## Boeing promises to defects correct aircraft

SEATTLE (R) — Executives of Boeing Co., stung by complaints from major customers and a U.S. government safety directive, pledged Tuesday to act to correct defects in some of its 747 and 767 jets.

The executives, at a news conference called to address the situation, said the company has received letters from at least four big customers complaining about quality control in their planes.

Phil Condit, executive vice-president of Boeing's Commercial Airplane Co., said Japan Air Lines, British Airways Plc., the American Airlines unit of AMR

Corp., and All Nippon Airways had complained.

One complaint involved a fire extinguisher system in the 767-200 extended-range aircraft, he said. Pipes for the system, which is composed of bottles containing fire depressant, were misrouted in some aircraft and resulted in fire suppressant being released in the wrong compartments, he said.

Condit said workers at the American Airlines facility in Tulsa, Okla., had discovered the problem and notified Boeing.

Condit said complaints from Japan Air Lines (JAL) involved

faulty extinguisher bottles and incorrect installation of temperature sensors for the four-engine 747 Jumbo jet, which caused temperature gauges to register for the wrong engines. JAL is Boeing's single biggest customer.

Condit said the company is attempting to correct all the defects and it is notifying all other operators of its planes about the problems.

The Boeing executives said there is not, however, a drop in the quality of workmanship on its airplanes.

"There is no detectable drop in the quality of the airplanes," said Boeing spokesman Craig Martin.

Not all Soviet participants at

## Americans teach Soviets tricks of advertising

MOSCOW (R) — American salesmen administered a culture shock to managers from Soviet state industry Tuesday, telling them at a Moscow seminar on advertising techniques that "the consumer is king."

Officials of Coca-Cola, American Express, chemical firm Monsanto and public relations consultants Young and Rubicam spoke at the one-day course as 500 U.S. businessmen opened a meeting with Soviet officials to explore trade opportunities.

"It's very interesting but a bit vulgar," said Aleksei Kozhov of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce after hearing an illustrated talk on how Coca-Cola Co. launched a new, low-calorie brand of the famous soft drink.

"I will pass on what I have

learnt to Soviet enterprises but at the moment we don't need much advertising because we don't have enough goods. Maybe after 'perestroika' we will



Ending session hailed as most democratic and open

## China's congress reconfirms commitment to reform

PEKING (Agencies) — China's parliament Wednesday ended an annual 20-day session hailed as its most democratic and open by passing laws that reconfirm the government's commitment to economic reform.

The National People's Congress' 2,900 delegates approved a report by Premier Li Peng that urged more economic reforms and acknowledged that rising prices and faltering agricultural production have become serious problems. There were three opposing votes and six abstentions.

The congress produced few surprises and solidified Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang's position as the nation's strongest political figure behind his mentor, semi-retired senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

Zhao, 69, who became party chief last year after seven years as premier, advocates a rapid shift away from central planning and toward a more market-oriented economy that would be more efficient and competitive.

The congress, as expected, named General Yang Shangkun as state president and Wan Li as chairman of the congress. Both are allies of Deng and Zhao and solid supporters of reform. They replaced the conservative Li Xiannian and Peng Zhen.

On Tuesday, the legislature also named a new state council, or parliament, that stressed continuity with Zhao's policies. A majority of ministers either retained their posts or turned them over to younger bureaucrats within their ministries.

### Backing reform

Li Peng, 59, who was confirmed as premier earlier in the

session, is regarded as being less concerned with reform than with economic stability. But his report, delivered on the opening day of the session, hacked Zhao's reform programme, tempered only by several warnings against being too impetuous in revamping the economic system.

The official Xinhua News Agency said more than 100 changes were made in the final version of the report, with more emphasis given to education and the issue of China's minority nationalities.

The revised report encourages employees of universities and institutes to work at second jobs on university-related projects such as the sale of new university-developed products or in school-run industries. The aim is to bring more revenue to the schools and to bolster incomes.

That issue spurred protests during the congress by students and teachers who say education is underfunded and that academics should not be made to do outside work.

The report emphasises the importance of protecting the rights of China's minorities. Buddhist monks in Tibet in recent months have led violent demonstrations against what they say is oppression by authorities in Peking.

The delegates passed, with two opposing votes and 11 abstentions, a law which is to end direct state controls over state enterprises and give factory managers greater authority over their operations.

## U.S. Marines fire on intruders after one sentry killed

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Marine guards fired on suspected intruders at U.S. air base one night after an American sentry was killed in a similar shooting incident at the base, U.S. officials said.

The officials said there were no casualties in two hours of gunfire Tuesday night by Marines guarding the underground fuel storage depot at Howard Air Force base outside Panama City.

On Monday night, a U.S. Marine, Corporal Ricardo Villalobos, 25, was killed while investigating a suspected break-in at the storage depot.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said Tuesday that Villalobos apparently was shot accidentally by fellow Marine guards, but added there had in

recent weeks been a series of intrusions at the base by individuals who were uniformed and camouflaged.

"When one has intruders into the base perimeter, who are in uniform and are camouflaged, the assumption that one comes to is that of course they are members of Panama's Defence Forces," he told reporters in Washington.

Panama's military called Howard's statements irresponsible, saying they were aimed at justifying a military intervention.

During the incident Tuesday night, guards at the depot fired on "an unknown number of persons" who appeared to be armed and were "inside and on a U.S. military facility," said Air Force

Colonel Ron Sconyers, a spokesman attached to the U.S. Southern Command.

"There were flares going off and there were reports of gunfire for a couple of hours," he said. "It was heavy at first, light at the end."

The colonel said the firing began at about 7:35 p.m. (0035 GMT Wednesday) at the Arraijan Tank Farm, which is surrounded by an 8-foot steel mesh fence topped by barbed wire. Sconyers said it was not known if the Marine guards were themselves under fire. He said he could not identify the intruders.

About two hours later, most of Panama City was plunged into darkness by an apparently unrelated power failure.

Earlier, another Southern Command spokesman, Lieutenant-Commander Doug Schamp, told reporters there was "no reason at all at this time" to suspect Panamanian military involvement in Monday's shooting incident.

Villalobos was one of nearly 2,000 Marines and army personnel sent to Panama in the past few weeks to step up security for the Panama Canal, other U.S. installations and American citizens.

### WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

#### 23 killed in S. Africa plane crash

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A chartered DC-3 Dakota aircraft carrying jockeys and trainers to a race meeting crashed in flames and exploded in South Africa killing all 23 people on board, a Transport Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Race course officials said in a statement a number of well-known South African jockeys were on the plane when it crashed into a field Tuesday near the railway town of Henneman, 250 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg. Transport Ministry spokesman Leon Els said all 20 passengers and three crew members on board the Dakota, operated by the United Air Charter Company, were killed when the plane crashed about halfway through a flight from Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State to Johannesburg.

#### Former president Chun resigns advisory posts

SEOUL (AP) — Former president Chun Doo-Hwan resigned Wednesday as a government adviser and apologised to the nation for the conduct of his younger brother, who faces trial in a corruption scandal. Chun told a news conference he was resigning as chairman of the Advisory Council of State Elders, which advises the president on the conduct of national affairs. He also resigned as honorary chairman of the Democratic Justice Party. Chun apologised for the conduct of his younger brother, Chun Kyung-Hwan, and said he had failed to control him. "I blame my own lack of discretion," he said. The younger Chun is awaiting trial on charges of embezzling millions of dollars in cash, stocks and land while he was president of the semi-official Saemaul Urban and Rural Development Movement. He was named to the post by the former president.

#### Byrd to step down as Senate majority leader

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senator Robert Byrd announced Tuesday he would step down as Senate Majority leader at the end of the year, saying he could do more for his constituents as chairman of a major committee. "I have decided that this will be my final term as Democratic leader," the 70-year-old West Virginia senator told reporters after informing fellow Democrats at a party luncheon. Byrd, first elected to the Senate in 1958 after six years in the House of Representatives, said he would run for reelection in November and expected to be chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which allocates funds for all government agencies. "I can do more for West Virginia as chairman of the Appropriations Committee," said Byrd. Byrd has been the Democrats' Senate leader since 1977, first as majority leader and then as minority leader from 1981 until 1987 when Republicans had a majority in the Senate.

## Human survival conference tackles nuclear threat

OXFORD, England (AP) — American astronomer Carl Sagan accused the superpowers Tuesday of booby-trapping planet earth with 60,000 nuclear weapons.

Forty-two years after the first atomic bomb, he said, the superpowers have spent about \$10 trillion apiece on the cold war, and nuclear weapons have still not accomplished their original goal of ensuring national security.

One U.S. or Soviet nuclear submarine captain now has the power of life and death over 200 cities, he said, "a power greater in excess of that which God is said to have demonstrated in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah."

Sagan was one of the main speakers at the First Global Conference on Human Survival, a meeting of 200 spiritual leaders and elected lawmakers that is occupied with the greatest threat to humankind — the possibility of nuclear annihilation.

### No proper place to hide

"Today, in the nuclear age, I think everyone is a target," said the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists.

"There is no proper place to hide — but I may survive because I live in a little village in the Himalayas," he said, as the audience at Oxford's town hall laughed.

Sagan said there was some "very preliminary progress" — last year's treaty eliminating all medium-range nuclear weapons and the current negotiations to cut long-range missiles by 50 per cent.

Dr. Yevgeny Velikhov, an adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said the next step toward a world without nuclear weapons should be a 95 per cent cut in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers.

"I hope after the 50 per cent cut, it is reasonable to go down to deep cuts," he said. "In my view it is completely safe to go to 5 per cent of existing nuclear potential."

The Soviet said he hoped such an agreement could be achieved "before the next century."

Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said such an agreement would require the superpowers to replace all multiple warheads on missiles with single warheads.

If the Soviets and Americans agree to deep cuts, Velikhov said, other nuclear powers including Britain, France and China would also have to cut their nuclear arsenals.

"Vast and obscene arsenal" Sagan said the superpowers have accumulated "a vast and obscene arsenal" of nuclear weapons.

"The United States and the Soviet Union have booby-trapped the planet with 60,000 nuclear weapons. They have always done it from very high-minded patriotic motives, each responding to the aggressive acts of the other, always in high moral dudgeon," he said.

The government imposed the emergency decree April 8 after

## Were faked Reagan quotes a scandal or business as usual?

By Christopher  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — When former White House spokesman Larry Speakes fabricated quotations and put them into President Reagan's mouth, was he fomenting a scandal or practising Washington public relations as usual?

There is sharp disagreement on this question among the experts in the U.S. capital, termed a "ghost town" by one political magazine because of the frequency with which politicians win fame through ghost writers — professional communicators who write under their employers' names.

In his memoirs, Speakes admitted making up newsworthy quotes and pretending Reagan said them during a 1983 East-West crisis and a 1985 Geneva summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

News reporters and public relations experts have reacted with shock. Current White House Spokesman Marin Fitzwater Tuesday accused Speakes of perpetrating a "damn outrage."

Speakes, who spoke for Reagan for six years, stands accused of — among other things — manipulating the press, jeopardising Reagan's credibility and distorting history.

### No surprise

But some critics say his revelations should come as no surprise in Washington, where politicians rarely pen their own thoughts and often stage "pseudo-events" to bolster their images and win votes.

These critics say Speakes' disclo-



Larry Speakes

sure surely would raise no eyebrows in the Reagan White House, where the 77-year-old president is said to display little interest in detail, delegate much authority and likes to follow scripts — much as he did as a Hollywood actor in the 1940s and 50s.

Speakes reported in his book, "Speaking Out," that at Reagan's first summit with Gorbachev in Geneva in 1985, the U.S. delegation feared the president might be bowled over by an aggressive Soviet public relations machine and by highly articulate Gorbachev.

Speakes told reporters in Geneva that at the close of one private discussion with Gorbachev, Reagan had said: "There is much that divides us, but I believe the world breathes easier because we are talking here together."

In fact, Reagan had said no such thing. A Speakes aide had fabricated the remark on Speakes' order, he now admits.

Others say it is unfair to accuse Speakes of unusually scandalous conduct, given prevailing ethics in Washington.

"He's not the only one — to call this a scandal in Washington is being a hypocrite," New Republic magazine social critic Ari Posner said in an interview.

In a recent article entitled "The Culture of Plagiarism," Posner recounted how Reagan was given such a detailed speaking script for a meeting with Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd that it began: "Bob, I appreciate you and your colleagues coming down today."

Not the only one

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## COLUMN 10

### Hitching to the hospital

AVELLINO, Italy (AP) — An injured man riding unattended in the back of an ambulance fell out onto the roadway and had to hitchhike the rest of the way to the hospital, Italian newspapers reported Tuesday. The reports said Carmine Urciuolo, 23, a native of this town 56 kilometres southeast of Naples, and the stretcher on which he was riding fell out of the ambulance because the driver had not correctly closed the rear doors of the vehicle. Urciuolo had been injured in a traffic accident. Not until the ambulance reached the hospital emergency room did the driver realise that the patient was no longer in the vehicle. The patient was brought to the hospital in a private car and treated for minor injuries. The newspapers gave no details on what type of injuries the man had suffered in the car accident and whether he was also hurt in the fall from the ambulance.

Former Pentagon spokesman Bob Sims told Reuters foreign governments listened closely to presidential statements and must be confident such statements were never bogus.

Sims said presidential statements were part of the official record. Phony statements could distort history.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

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## Opposition plans new moves against Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh opposition leaders called a meeting Wednesday to plan new moves against the government after President Hussein Muhammad Ershad lifted a state of emergency imposed last November.

A coalition of 21 opposition parties dismissed Ershad's action as cosmetic and vowed to continue their campaign of strikes and protest to force the 58-year-old former army general to resign.

It said the meeting would discuss ways to step up the campaign against Ershad whom it accuses of running a corrupt government.

Ershad put curbs on civil liberties and press freedom and banned anti-government protests on Nov. 27.

## Honduras lifts emergency state

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) — The government said it will revoke a 5-day-state of emergency because the streets of Honduras' two largest cities remained calm following last week's violent anti-U.S. protests.

The causes for which the situation was declared have disappeared and normality has returned," presidential spokesman Lisandro Quesada said Tuesday.

"Therefore, the individual guarantees that our constitution will be restored," at 6 a.m. (1200 GMT) Wednesday, he said.

The government imposed the emergency decree April 8 after

demonstrators sacked and burned the U.S. consulate on April 7 to protest the forced deportation of an alleged drug trafficker. Five Hondurans were killed in the violence.

The decree gave police and military authorities sweeping powers of search and arrest in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. It also permitted officials to ban public protests and restrict freedom of movement.

About 2,000 people attacked and set fire to the U.S. consulate and offices of the U.S. Information Service. The U.S. embassy, in the same complex, was not damaged.

## De Mita forms government

ROME (AP) — Christian Democrat leader Ciriaco De Mita Wednesday formed Italy's 48th postwar government, ending a month-long political crisis, officials announced.

The 60-year-old De Mita put together a coalition of his party, the Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals, the same five-party alliance that has governed Italy through most of the 1980s.

De Mita presented his list of cabinet ministers to President Francesco Cossiga at the Quirinal Palace, formally ending the government crisis triggered by the resignation of Christian Democrat premier Giovanni Goria on March 11.

Goria stepped down after eight turbulent months in office, his coalition weakened by factional disputes in his own party as well as feuding with the Socialists, led by former premier Bettino Craxi.

Leaders of the five parties agreed on the terms for the new government Monday, and the parties met again separately Tuesday to give their final endorsement.

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